Constitution of Postgraduate Student Society

Located at the University of New England, 2351

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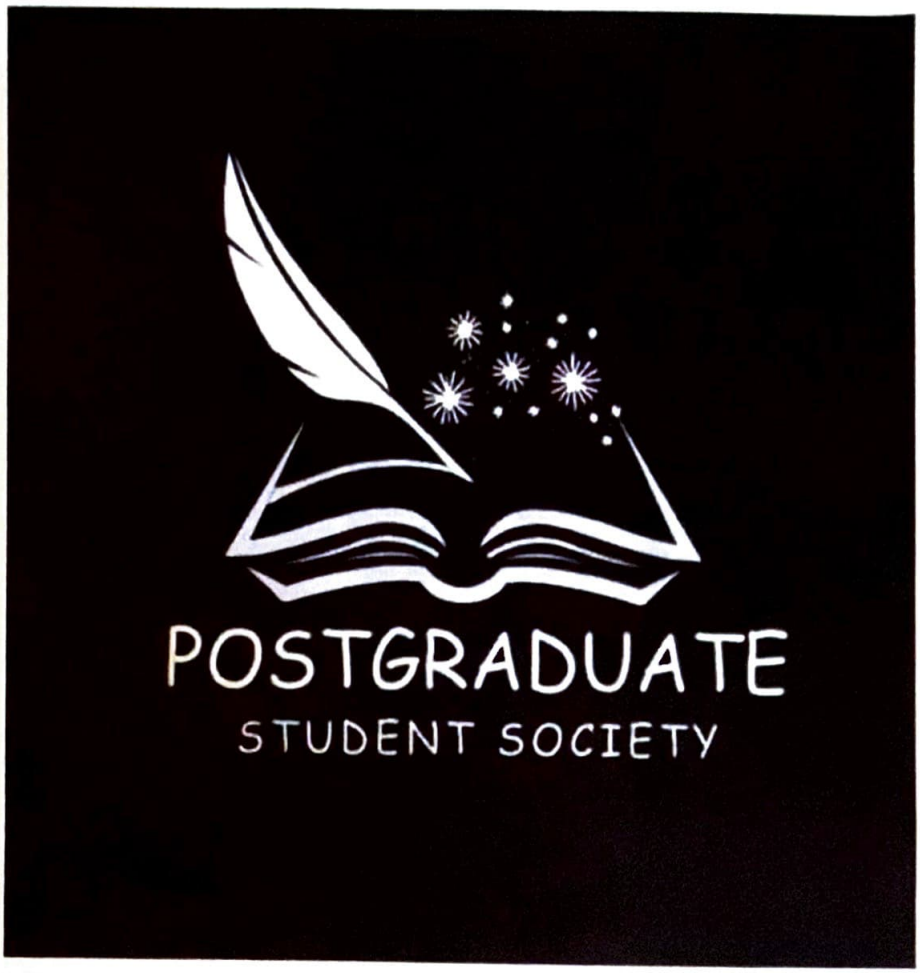

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Postgraduate Student Society Constitution

1. NAME

1.1. The name of the Club shall be Postgraduate Student Society (Hereinafter referred to as 'the Club')

2. AIMS

2.1. "The Club" is not-for-profit; meaning: the assets and income of the Club shall be applied solely in furtherance of the aims of the Club, and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the Club except as bona fide compensation expenses incurred on behalf of the Club.

2.2. The aims of the Club shall be to:

- To create a supportive community for all postgraduate students be they on campus or online
- To facilitate networks across faculties/schools and support peer networking
- To conduct social events for all postgraduate students be they on campus or online
- To represent postgraduate voices to the University.

2.3. The Club will undertake the following activities to achieve its aims:

2.3.1. Welcome new postgraduate students at the beginning of each trimester
2.3.2. Invite new postgraduate students to join the Society
2.3.3. Conduct three general meetings and one Annual General Meeting per year in which all members are invited
2.3.4. Survey members twice a year to establish preferences for postgraduate networking events
2.3.5. Conduct at least one postgraduate networking event per trimester
2.3.6. Provide postgraduate students with at least one newsletter per trimester.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1. **Student Membership**
Postgraduate students who are currently enrolled to study at the University of New England shall be eligible for membership of the Club. Postgraduate students shall hold one vote at all meetings and elections of the Club at which they are present.

3.2. The Club may levy fees on members. The amount of such fees shall not be excessive.

4. THE EXECUTIVE

4.1. The Club shall have an Executive consisting of:

4.1.1. President *(Required)*
4.1.2. Vice President(s)
4.1.3. Secretary *(Required)*
4.1.4. Treasurer *(Required)*

4.2. Executive shall have power to manage the Club in accordance with this Constitution.

4.3. Attendance of *Executive Members* at Ordinary and General Meetings is obligatory. Any *Executive Member* who does not attend three consecutive meetings without leave can be dismissed from the Executive by a two-thirds majority vote of those *Student Members* in attendance at an Ordinary Meeting.

5. DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

5.1. The President shall:

5.1.1. Plan the Club's activities in consultation with the Executive.
5.1.2. Liaise with the Executive and any Committees formed by the Club.
5.1.3. Ensure an adequate handover, including any documents and materials, to the following Executive.
5.1.4. Have a working knowledge of all current policies of the Club.

5.2. The Vice-President(s) shall:

5.2.1. Deputise for the President.

5.3. The Treasurer shall:

5.3.1. Maintain the Club's finances in accordance with the UNE Club Rules & Regulations.
5.3.2. Present to the Annual General Meeting of the Club, a report detailing the financial activity and status of the Club.
5.3.3. Ensure an adequate handover, including any documents and materials, to the following Executive.
5.3.4. Have a working knowledge of all current policies of the Club.

5.4. The Secretary shall:

5.4.1. Conduct the correspondence of the Club.
5.4.2. Book meeting rooms for the Club.
5.4.3. Keep minutes of the proceedings of all Club meetings.
5.4.4. Maintain the records and documents of the Club.
5.4.5. Maintain a list of current Members of the Club.
5.4.6. Have a working knowledge of all current policies of the Club.

6. ORDINARY MEETINGS

6.1. Ordinary Meetings shall be called by the President, Secretary, or Vice-President, or by the Secretary forthwith upon receipt of the written application of at least twenty percent (20%) of the *Student Members* of the Club.

6.2. At least seven (7) clear days notice of the time and place of an Ordinary Meeting shall be given by a mail-out to all current Members (a mail-out is understood to include communication by e-mail), as well as other reasonable attempts to communicate to the Membership.

6.3. The President shall chair Ordinary Meetings. In the absence of the President, another *Executive Member* shall chair the Meeting.

6.4. Quorum at Ordinary Meetings shall be ten (10) *Student Members* OR ten percent (10%) of the current *Student Member* total, whichever is less. Quorum must include not less than two (2) *Executive Members*.

6.5. The agenda for an Ordinary Meeting shall include:

6.5.1. Apologies and leaves of absence
6.5.2. Minutes of the previous meeting
6.5.3. Correspondence
6.5.4. Reports of *Executive Members*
6.5.5. Motions on notice

6.5.6. General Business

6.6. An Ordinary Meeting of the Club has power to carry motions relating to the affairs of the Club by a simple majority vote of those members present and voting, including:

6.6.1. Giving direction to the Executive.
6.6.2. Determining the use of the finances and other assets of the Club.
6.6.3. Instituting Committees for any purpose of the Club and co-opting Club members onto any Committee.
6.6.4. Dismissing *Executive Members* under 4.3 of the Constitution.

7. GENERAL MEETINGS

7.1. The Club shall hold General Meetings as required during a teaching period that is appropriate to the Club's Membership.

7.2. The Secretary may at any time, for any worthy purpose, call a General Meeting, and shall do so forthwith upon receipt of the written application of twenty percent (20%) of *Student Members* of the Club stating the purposes for which the meeting is called. The business debated at a General Meeting shall be confined to the purposes named in the notice.

7.3. At least seven (7) clear days notice of the time and place of a General Meeting shall be given by a mail-out to all current Members (a mail-out is understood to include communication by e-mail), as well as other reasonable attempts to communicate to the Membership.

7.4. The agenda for a General Meeting shall include:

7.4.1. Opening and welcome
7.4.2. Apologies and leaves of absence
7.4.3. Minutes of the previous general meeting
7.4.4. Business arising from the minutes
7.4.5. Correspondence
7.4.6. Reports of *Executive Members*
7.4.7. Other reports
7.4.8. Motions on notice
7.4.9. General business
7.4.10. Date of the next meeting

7.5. A General Meeting of the Club has the same powers as an Ordinary Meeting, and may also carry the following motions on notice relating to the affairs of the Club by a two-thirds majority vote of those members present and voting:

7.5.1. Filling vacancies on the Executive.
7.5.2. Repealing motions and the effect of motions carried at an Ordinary Meeting.
7.5.3. Amending the Constitution.
7.5.4. Dismissing *Executive Members* for reasons other than that in 4.3 of the Constitution, provided that the *Executive Member* is given reasonable right of reply.
7.5.5. Dissolving the Club.

7.6. No item of business is to be transacted at a General Meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under this constitution to vote, is present during the time the meeting is considering that item.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8.1. The Club shall hold an Annual General Meeting annually in the month of October.
8.2. The Annual General Meeting shall be convened for the following purposes:

8.2.1. To receive a report and statement of accounts for the preceding financial period.
8.2.2. To elect an Executive for the ensuing term.
8.2.3. To transact any other business, notice of which shall be duly submitted to the Secretary.

8.3. The Secretary shall give at least fourteen (14) clear days notice of the time and place of the Annual General Meeting through a mail-out to all Members (a mail-out is understood to include communication by e-mail), as well as other reasonable attempts to communicate to the Membership.

8.4. The Annual General Meeting shall be chaired by the President or an *Executive Member* not standing for election to any position.

8.5. The agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall include:

8.5.1. Opening and welcome
8.5.2. Apologies and leaves of absence
8.5.3. Minutes of the previous meeting
8.5.4. Business arising from the minutes
8.5.5. Correspondence
8.5.6. Annual Reports
  8.5.6.1. President
  8.5.6.2. Treasurer
  8.5.6.3. Secretary
  8.5.6.4. Other *Executive Members*
8.5.7. Motions on notice
8.5.8. Election of the Executive
8.5.9. General business

8.6. No item of business is to be transacted at an Annual General Meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under this constitution to vote, is present during the time the meeting is considering that item.

9. QUORUM AND ADJOURNMENT OF GENERAL MEETINGS

9.1. Quorum will be fifteen (10) *Student Members* (being members entitled under this constitution to vote at a General Meeting) OR twenty percent (20%) of the current *Student Member* total, whichever is less. Quorum must include not less than three (3) *Executive Members*. Members participating via live video or audio link are considered to be in attendance for the purpose of a quorum.

9.2. If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a General Meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting is to be adjourned for a future time, and members must receive written communication of details of the future General Meeting.

9.3. If at the adjourned General Meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the adjourned General Meeting, the members present (being at least 3) are to constitute a quorum.

9.4. The Chair of a General Meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the majority of Members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place, but no

business is to be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.

9.5. If a General Meeting is adjourned for fourteen (14) days or more, the Secretary must give written or oral notice of the adjourned meeting to each member of the Club stating the place, date, and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

10. ELECTIONS

10.1. The Executive shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

10.2. Only *Student Members* shall be eligible to be candidates for election or to vote in the election.

10.3. The term of the Executive shall commence immediately following the close of the Annual General Meeting and conclude at the close of the Annual General Meeting in the following year.

10.4. The Secretary shall give at least fourteen (14) clear days notice of the time and place of the annual elections through a mail-out to all Members (a mail-out is understood to include communication by e-mail), as well as other reasonable attempts to communicate to the Membership. The notice shall state:

10.4.1. The date on which nominations open, which shall be at least fourteen (14) clear days before the date of the elections.
10.4.2. The date and time on which nominations close, which shall be no later than the time of the meeting at which the elections are to occur.
10.4.3. The time, date and venue of the election.
10.4.4. That only *Student Members* shall be eligible candidates for election or to vote.

10.5. In order to stand for election, nominees must accept nomination.

10.6. Before an election the Executive shall nominate a suitable person, not being a candidate for election, to act as Returning Officer. The Returning Officer shall be charged with the conduct of the election, and may appoint suitable persons, not being candidates for election, as Deputy Returning Officers.

10.7. A Member from the UNE Life Student Experiences Team shall serve as Electoral Arbiter and shall receive any appeals against the decisions of the Returning Officer.

10.8. The General Body of the Club may, in a General Meeting, elect any *Student Member* of the Club to fill any casual vacancy that may occur in the Executive (A casual vacancy occurs when an *Executive Member* is dismissed from the Executive or resigns before the term of office has expired).

11. ALTERATION TO THE CONSTITUTION

11.1. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of those *Student Members* in attendance at any General Meeting, provided that:

11.1.1. Written notice of proposed changes has been given to the Secretary not less than seven (7) clear days before such a meeting.
11.1.2. Said changes do not contravene UNE Club Rules & Regulations or the University of New England policies.
11.1.3. The Secretary has given at least seven (7) clear days notice of those proposed changes to all current Members through a mail-out to (a mail-out is understood to include communication by e-mail), as well as other reasonable attempts to communicate to the Membership.

11.1.4. A copy of the amended constitution, and minutes of the meeting at which the amendments were made, are presented to a member of the UNE Life Student Experience Team within fourteen (14) days of the meeting.

11.1.5. A member of the UNE Life Student Experience Team receives & ratifies aforementioned amendments.

11.2. Constitutional amendments do not become effective until approved by a member of the UNE Life Student Experience Team.

12. ASSETS AND FINANCES

12.1. All property of the Club shall be vested in the Executive and shall be dealt with in such manner as directed by the Club in an Ordinary Meeting.

12.2. The Club shall maintain a bank account.

12.3. The Club bank account will have a branch located in the city of Armidale, NSW, Australia.

12.4. All payments of the Club shall be by Electronic Funds Transfer or cheque, signed by at least two (2) members of the Executive, one of whom must be the Treasurer.

12.5. The finances of the Club shall be maintained in accordance with the UNE Club Handbook for Treasurers and be submitted to a member of the UNE Life Student Experience Team, annually, for the purposes of re-affiliation.

12.6. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Constitution, all assets and funds of the Club shall be used solely to further the Objects of the Club, and no portion of those funds shall be paid or distributed to members of the Club except as compensation for out-of-pocket expenses.

13. DISSOLUTION

13.1. The Club may be dissolved by resolution of a two-thirds majority vote of those members present and voting at a General Meeting. If on the dissolution there remain any monies or property, they shall be held in trust with UNE Life for a period of two (2) years and will be returned to the Club should it reform. After two (2) year, funds will be reallocated to other student services within the University.

13.2. The Secretary shall give at least fourteen (14) clear days notice of the time and place of such a General Meeting through a mail-out to all Members (a mail-out is understood to include communication by e-mail), as well as other reasonable attempts to communicate to the Membership.

14. INACTIVITY

14.1. The Club shall be deemed inactive after any continuous eighteen (18) month period in which the Club does not hold any events or engage in financial activity. If upon inactivity there remains any monies or properties, they shall be held in trust with UNE Life for a period of two (2) years and will be returned to the Club should it reform. After two (2) years, funds will be reallocated to other student services within the University.

15. RECOGNITION & AFFILIATION

15.1. The Clubs is permitted to use the name 'UNE' or 'University of New England' as well as branding of the University as long as it remains affiliated with UNE Life.

15.2. The Club shall comply with all requirements of UNE Club Rules & Regulations and The University of New England policy for recognition as a registered Club of the University of New England.

15.3. The club must, by the 31st December in any given year, complete the UNE Life Club Affiliation process for the following year.

15.4. The Club's affiliation with UNE Life may be cancelled if the Club is in breach of UNE Club Rules & Regulations, University of New England policy, or if they are unable to maintain the minimum requirements for a UNE Club.

This Constitution was adopted on the 12th day of May, 2026.

President's Signature _____

Secretary's Signature _____

UNE Life Student Experience Representative Signature _____ (5/6/26)